Plantation of Mango Trees in Bihar

3993. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake the plantation of new varieties of mangoes in the forest areas of Santhal Pargana and Chhotanagpur in Bihar to increase the production of mangoes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDAN): (a) There is no specific proposal to undertake the plantation of new varieties of mangoes in the forest areas of Santhal Pargana and Chota Nagpur in Bihar to increase the production of mangoes.

(b) Does not arise.

Extradition Treaty with Dubai

3994. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) wether the Government are contemplating for an extradition treaty with Dubai in regard to extradition of criminals.

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Upper Tapti and Bargi Dam Projects

3995. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the Upper Tapti and Bargi dam Projects has started;

(b) if so, since when and the time by which the projects are likely to be completed; and

(c) the irrigation potential likely to be created on completion of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Construction work on Upper Tapti Project State-I of Maharashtra and Bargi Multipurpose Project of Madhya Pradesh were started in IV Five Year Plan. While Upper Tapti Project Stage-I is scheduled for completion in 1995, Bargi Multi purpose Project is scheduled to spill over beyond 1995.

(c) Ultimate irrigation potential of Upper Tapti Projects Stage-I and Bargi Multipurpose Project is 55,140 hectares and 2,19,800 hectares respectively.

[*English*]

Request by Amnesty International to visit India

3996. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Amnesty International to visit certain parts of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Amnesty International has requested for permission to visit punjab. Jammu & Kashmir, North Eastern States. Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

(c) These requests are under consideration by the Government.

New Equipment to Gauge the Water Flow in Cauvery

3997. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ordered for the installation of a new equipment to gauge the exact quantum of water flowing through the river Cauvery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of water flowing in Tamil Nadu as per the existing equipment?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The Central Government have not ordered new gauging equipment for use in the Cauvery basin. The Central Water Commission

maintains a network of 16 gauges and discharge stations in the Cauvery basin. Out of these, 6 stations are located on the main stem of the Cauvery river. The discharge observation is done with the help of current meters and no new equipment is considered necessary.

(c) During the water year commencing from 1st June, 1991, the quantity of water that has been gauged at Billigundulu station on the Cauvery near the border between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu works out to be 3832 million cubic metres upto 16th August, 1991.

Relationship with ASEAN Countries

3996. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have a close and formal relationship with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN);

(b) if so, the details of the initiatives taken in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the ASEAN thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) India has always attached importance to close linkages with ASEAN as a grouping, in addition to the existing friendly relations between India and individual ASEAN countries.

(b) and (c) Consultations are underway on a proposal for India to start a "Sectoral Dialogue" with ASEAN.

Market Intelligence Centres

3999. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up Market Intelligence Centres in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the places where such Centres have been set-up;

(c) the objectives of setting up these Centres;

(d) whether a study has been conducted into the functioning of these Centres and their utility to the farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI *MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN*): (a) *Yes, Sir.*

(b) The Market Intelligence Centres are located at Lucknow, Calcutta, Patna, Bhopal, Jaipur, Bombay, Madras, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Shillong, Bangalore, New Delhi, Trivandrum and Bhubneshwar.

(c) The objectives of setting up of Market Intelligence Units were (i) to undertake regular tours of markets in their respective regions by the staff, (ii) to impart on the spot guidance to the primary reporting agencies of the State Governments about collection of market intelligence, (iii) to furnish periodical reports on current price and market situation, crop prospects and outlook, (iv) to maintain liaison with the concerned departments of the State Governments connected with crop production, food and civil supplies administration, economics and statistics bureaus, land records and agencies connected with procurement of various agricultural commodities and (v) to undertake periodical studies on various aspects of marketing.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The study has shown that collection and reporting of price data by these Centres have enabled the Government to frame the price policy, prevented the distress sale by the farmers and enabled the farmers to get the remunerative price of their produce. Dissemination of market intelligence by mass media in the rural programmes and crop intelligence fortnightly reports at times not only helped the farmers but also Government to take corrective measures as and when needed. In addition the study has recommended that these units should be strengthened by providing more staff.

[*Translation*]

Speed Post Service in Rajasthan

4000. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the cities in Rajasthan where Speed Post Service facilities are available?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): Speed Post